



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 151**

**TO:** Monica Tonel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email  
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig, Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**Cc:** Denise Mills, TAI – via Email

**DATE:** February 11, 2019

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 151 Month Ending January 2019

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Plant Tissue Study – TAI delivered the draft Plant Tissue Study data summary report (DSR) to EPA on January 31, 2019 for review and comment.

Soil Amendment Technology Evaluation Study (SATES) – TAI continued coordination with the SATES team and Kira Lynch, Superfund Technology Liaison with the Office of Research and Development, Office of Science and Policy during the month. Work focused on preparing the Phase II work plan, which includes the proposed plan for bench-scale evaluation of amendments. TAI submitted the Final Phase IB Memo (Soil Amendment Technology Screening and Design) to EPA on January 14, 2019. The final memo reflects TAI's November 28, 2018 response to a comment from the Citizens for a Clean Columbia (CCC) on the draft memo. TAI received approval from EPA of the Phase IA DSR on January 28, 2019, with authorization to finalize the DSR. TAI arranged for remaining soil samples that were collected and analyzed in Phase IA (four samples) to be transferred from Hazen Research, Inc. to EPA's National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon in response to a request from Dr. Mark Johnson. At the time of writing, TAI received results of biochar screening from Dr. Johnson on February 4, 2019. These results will be incorporated into the Phase II work plan.

### Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment:

Soil Toxicity Reference Values (TRVs) – TAI received comments from EPA on December 24, 2018 on the revised approach for developing soil TRVs and currently reviewing and evaluating the comments. During the month, TAI worked with EPA to schedule a call to discuss the comments and the call will take place on February 15, 2019.

Fish Diet TRVs – TAI is in receipt of a letter dated December 13, 2018 from EPA with comments on the July 2018 draft final fish diet TRV document and is reviewing and evaluating the comments.

Wildlife TRVs – TAI delivered a revised draft final wildlife TRV document to EPA on February 6, 2019 in response to a letter received from EPA on December 24, 2018 with comments on the September 2018 draft final document.

Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC) Refinement Document – TAI is in receipt of a letter dated November 20, 2018 from EPA with comments on the draft final COPC Refinement for Aquatic and Terrestrial Receptors and continued work to revise the document during the month.

Phase 3 Sediment Study – TAI delivered a revised draft technical memorandum for the sediment freeze grab sampling pilot study to EPA on January 25, 2019 in response to comments received from EPA on December 21, 2018. EPA approved the revised memo on January 30, 2019 and at the time of writing, TAI delivered the final memo on February 1, 2019. TAI received an electronic mail message on January 9, 2019 from Jacobs, with an attached letter dated December 31, 2018 with EPA's comments on the draft technical memorandum for the porewater sampling pilot study, and TAI worked on revisions to the memo. At the time of writing, TAI delivered a draft technical memorandum Draft Sediment Facies Maps for Upper Reach Operable Unit Areas of Interest Upper Columbia River Phase 3 Sediment Study on February 8, 2019 for EPA review.

Delineation Study – TAI continued work on developing of a draft protocol based on EPA's Air Modeling Protocol Outline for the Delineation Study. TAI is awaiting comments from EPA on the preliminary draft Data Quality Objectives for the delineation study delivered to EPA on September 27, 2018 for review and comment.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.